

09/980307

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PATENT DOCKET 205,306

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: TASSES **EXAMINER:**
SERIAL NO.: Not yet Assigned **ART UNIT:**
FILED: Herewith
TITLE: PROCESS AND APPARATUS FOR PREPARING MEALS

PRE-EXAMINATION AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Arlington, Va 22202

SIR:

STATEMENT OF FILING BY EXPRESS MAIL 37 C.F.R. § 1.10

This correspondence is being Deposited with the United States Postal Service on November 28, 2001 in an envelope as "Express Mail Post to Addressee"
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Please amend the application filed on even date herewith prior to proceeding with its examination.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 1, as follows:

1. (Amended) A process for providing a home meal replacement as herein defined, comprising:
- (i) providing a carrier tray for each meal of the home meal replacement to be served,
 - (ii) introducing the meal into each carrier tray and subjecting the meal to conditions that inhibit microorganism growth and contamination of the meal, the meal consisting of one or more foods that are introduced into each carrier tray at desired positions to simulate a gourmet meal,
 - (iii) freezing the meal in each carrier tray to a temperature that enables the meal to be cold stored until the meal is ready to be served,
 - (iv) providing a serving dish for each carrier tray wherein the serving dish is of a size and shape that corresponds substantially to that of the carrier tray,
 - (v) manipulating each carrier tray in such a way that the frozen meal therein is transferred into its respective serving dish, the meal being presented in its respective serving dish such that the one or more foods are located in the same relative positions as in the respective carrier tray, and

(vi) heating or thawing the meal in each serving dish to edible temperature for serving and consumption.

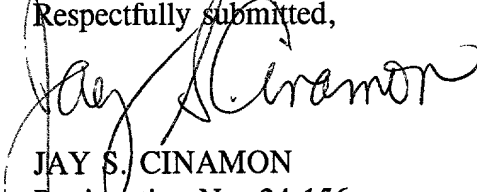
REMARKS

It is respectfully requested that the examination of this application proceed on the basis of the amendatory action taken herein and that this amendment be entered prior to calculating the filing fee and according the application a filing date.

Attached hereto is a Marked-Up Version of the Changes Made by this Pre-Examination Amendment.

Please charge any fees which may be due and which have not been submitted herewith to our Deposit Account No. 01-0035.

Respectfully submitted,


JAY S. CINAMON
Registration No. 24,156
Attorney for Applicant

ABELMAN FRAYNE & SCHWAB
150 East 42nd Street
New York, New York 10017-5612
Tel. (212) 949-9022
Fax (212) 949-9190

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MARKED-UP VERSION SHOWING CHANGES MADE BY AMENDMENT

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A process for providing a home meal replacement as herein defined, comprising:
- (i) providing a carrier tray for each meal of the home meal replacement to be served,
 - (ii) introducing the meal into each carrier tray and subjecting the meal to conditions that inhibit microorganism growth and contamination of the meal, the meal consisting of one or more foods that are introduced into each carrier tray at desired positions to simulate a gourmet meal,
 - (iii) freezing the meal in each carrier tray to a temperature that enables the meal to be cold stored until the meal is ready to be served,
 - (iv) providing a serving dish for each carrier tray wherein the serving dish is of a size and shape that corresponds substantially to that of the carrier tray,
 - (v) manipulating each carrier tray in such a way that the frozen meal therein is transferred into its respective serving dish, the meal being presented in its respective serving dish such that the one or more foods are located in the same relative positions as in the respective carrier tray, and
 - (vi) ~~(iv)~~ heating or thawing the meal in each serving dish to edible temperature for serving and consumption.